

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05

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R 171008Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6309

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0171

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PBOR, ET, SU, LY, SO

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON LIBYA, ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA AND
SADIQ AL MAHDI

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. NIMEIRI CONCLUDED MONTHLY FACE THE NATION
TELEVISION BROADCAST JANUARY 16 WITH TERSE SUMMARY
REMARKS ABOUT LIBYA, ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA AND NATIONAL
RECONCILIATION, INCLUDING STATUS OF SADIQ AL MAHDI. REPLYING
TO LETTER FROM CITIZEN, WHICH IS USUAL INTRODUCTION FOR
NIMEIRI'S COMMENTS, PRESIDENT SAID SUDAN'S RELATIONS WITH
LIBYA WERE NOT RPT NOT DETERIORATING AND "JOINT EFFORTS"
ARE BEING MADE TO NORMALIZE THEM. REGARDING ETHIOPIA,
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HE SAID SUDAN'S POLICY TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH
NEIGHBORS MET WITH SIMILAR INTENTION ON PART OF ETHIOPIAN
BROTHERS, SO NATURALLY SUDAN RESPONDED. FOREIGN MINISTERS
MET IN SIERRA LEONE AND NIMEIRI MET WITH AMBASSADOR IN
KHARTOUM. NIMEIRI BELIEVES STABILITY OF ETHIOPIA DEEPLY
CONCERNS SUDAN AND THEREFORE NIMEIRI WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS
TO PUT END TO ESCALATION OF ERITREAN QUESTION BY HELPING

ESTABLISH DIALOGUE. BECAUSE OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION IN HORN, NIMEIRI HAS SIMILAR ATTITUDE TOWARDS DETERIORATING RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, THAT IS, HE SUPPORTS DIALOGUE.

2. REGARDING ALLEGED "FAILURE OF EXERTED EFFORTS FOR CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL UNITY" PLUS DEPARTURE OF SADIQ AL-MAHDI ABROAD, NIMEIRI SAID HE AND SADIQ HAD EARLIER SETTLED ALL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEMSELVES. SADIQ'S TRAVEL IS "MISSION CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH OUR JOINT EFFORTS" FOR RECONCILIATION. SADIQ HAS "SO FAR SUCCEEDED" IN MEETINGS WITH DISSIDENTS RESIDING IN LIBYA AND OTHER PLACES HE VISITED, AND HE INFORMED NIMEIRI THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO KHARTOUM IN NEAR FUTURE. NIMEIRI TOOK OCCASION TO SALUTE ALL THOSE WHO RESPONDED TO RECONCILIATION AND AMNESTY IN AND OUTSIDE SUDAN.

END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. COMMENT: BRIEF AND SUMMARY REMARKS WERE MADE AT END OF SPEECH DEVOTED MAINLY TO DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC MATTERS. NIMEIRI'S PUBLIC OPTIMISM REGARDING RELATIONS WITH LIBYA ARE INCONSISTENT WITH MORE PRAGMATIC APPRAISAL OF QADDAFI'S AHCN PIN PRIVATE CONVERSATION. HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA CONTINUE TO GET FAVORABLE MENTION IN MEDIA. YESTERDAY JANUARY 16 FIRST COMMERCIAL FLIGHT OF ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES FROM ADDIS TO KHARTOUM RETURNED TO ADDIS WITH AMBASSADORS OF COUNTRIES ON OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOOK OCCASION TO STATE THAT NORMALIZATION OF SUDAN-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS WAS MAKING "RAPID PROGRESS" AND MOST OAU COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED, WHICH SEEMS LIKE EXAGGERATION. NIMEIRI INTENDED TO DENY ANY FAILURE OF HIS DOMESTIC RECONCILIATION STRATEGY AND TO DENY RUMORS THAT SADIQ AL-MAHDI HAD LEFT SUDAN BECAUSE OF DISAFFECTION. HIS REFERENCE TO "FAILURE" APPARENTLY MERE QUOTATION OF ERRONEOUS RUMOR IN ORDER TO SET MATTERS RIGHT. HIS BRIEF REMARKS OMITTED ANY MENTION OF HUSSEIN AL-HINDI AND OTHERS WHOSE ABSENCE MIGHT TRULY REFLECT LACK OF RECONCILIATION, AND HIS CLAIM THAT SADIQ HAS MET WITH SUCCESS IN TALKING TO DISSIDENTS ABROAD IS PROBABLY MIS-LEADINGLY OPTIMISTIC ALSO.
BERGUS

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